



Dr. Marius Jacobs
Photograph Ruth van Crevel, 1972

IN MEMORIAM Dr. M. JACOBS

Dr. Marius Jacobs, a senior staff member of the Rijksherbarium, died suddenly on 28 April 1983, following a heart attack some days earlier. He was only 53 years old and his death came as a great shock, not only to his colleagues at our institute.

Jacobs was a many-sided man with interests in many fields. In each of these he held definite opinions which were based on a thorough knowledge of the subject. So he could not easily be shaken from his views when it came to a discussion.

In the realm of botany three focal points of his interest must be mentioned. In the first place is *Flora Malesiana*, a project with which he became acquainted around 1950 and to which he was one of the first contributors. The ambition behind the project and its well-considered execution appealed to him and he praised the project where and when it seemed appropriate, always trying to further its purposes.

In the second place must be mentioned the cause of nature conservation in the tropics, especially its botanical side: the conservation of the richness of the tropical rain forest. In order of time this came after his involvement with plant taxonomy and *Flora Malesiana*, but in more recent years it came first in his activities and took most of his time.

In the third place his biohistorical and biographical achievements must be mentioned. Many papers in *Flora Malesiana Bulletin* and elsewhere bear witness to this interest.

Professor Van Steenis has written an obituary in the above-mentioned *Bulletin*, nr. 36 (1983) 3869-3871 and I may refer to that paper for dates and facts, and also for a personal appraisal from someone who knew him long and well.

The bibliography of his botanical and nature conservation writings, prepared by Mr. L. Vogelenzang, shows some of his personality. In later years, particularly, he was often more of a journalist than a practising scientist, but he always adhered to the sound scientific principle that one must only write on subjects about which one is very well informed. He had a very personal style, sometimes concise, sometimes flowery, and often mixing broad vision with minute detail.

He was original, inventive and resourceful, always trying to find new ways and means to reach the goals he had set. This originality also showed in his teaching.

After the news of his unexpected death had been circulated, we received very many letters from all over the world, showing that his person and achievements were valued highly by many, and making clear that not only the Rijksherbarium will miss him.

C. Kalkman

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compiled by L. Vogelenzang, Rijksherbarium, Leiden

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